

To: House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Lea Stueve
Legislative/Policy Director

Date: February 25, 2013

Subject: H.B. 2368, Relating to the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council

Chairman Crum and members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Committee regarding House Bill 2368. This legislation amends statutes pertaining to the Governor's mental health services planning council and its purpose is to expand the council's scope of interest to encompass "behavioral health."

K.S.A. 39-1605 established the Governor's mental health planning council in part, to comply with federal public law 102-321. In addition to compliance with federal law, the purpose of the council is outlined in K.S.A. 39-1606. Most notably, its purpose is to confer, advise and consult with the Secretary and Governor with respect to the policies, management and operation of state hospitals and facilities and community based mental health services; serve as an advocate for targeted population members and other individuals with mental illness or emotional problems; and otherwise plan, review, and evaluate mental health services in Kansas.

The Chairman of the council has requested that the scope of the council be increased beyond mere "mental health" services to include the broader category of "behavioral health" services. The legislation accomplishes this goal by changing the name of the council from the "Governor's mental health services planning council" to the "Governor's behavioral health services planning council" and increasing membership to provide representation to previously unrepresented groups and organizations.

The groups and organizations which this legislation provides representation for are children with a severe emotional disturbance, adults in recovery from a substance use disorder, substance use disorder treatment centers, family members of persons with a substance use disorder, certified peer mentors, behavioral health advocacy groups, and prevention professionals.

It is the Agency's position that the proposed amendments are necessary to ensure an accurate assessment of behavioral health services in Kansas, including mental health services. Particularly, the groups and organizations this legislation provides representation for are needed to ensure an open and comprehensive dialog as it relates to the needs, concerns, provision, and management of behavioral health services in Kansas. Without the additional members, some perspectives may not be represented.

There will be minimal financial consequences to passage of H.B. 2368. Increasing the council's membership from twenty-five to thirty-three will increase the funds required to provide for *per diem*, mileage, and subsistence allowance.